

**Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Action Plan**  
**Pilot Project Proposal Summary for**  
**Reduction of Air Pollution Exposure In Urban Communities in Southern California**  
**January 14, 2005**

- I. Lead Agency:** Air Resources Board (ARB)
- II. Area Proposed:** The communities of Commerce, Mira Loma, and Wilmington in Los Angeles County.
- Area Demographics:**
- **Commerce:** 90% Latino, 6% White, 2% African American, and 2% Asian, with approximately 25% of the residents living below the poverty level.
  - **Mira Loma:** 44% Latino, 42% White, 6% African American 4% Asian, and 4% other, with nearly 12% of the residents living below the poverty level.
  - **Wilmington:** 71% Latino, 13% White, 6% African American, 8% Asian and 2% other, with nearly 23% of the residents living below the poverty level.
- III. Background:** The Children's Environmental Risk Reduction Plan (ChERRP) is designed to explore applications of strategies for reducing children's environmental risks. ARB staff will lead a pilot project in southern California focusing on reducing air pollution exposure and risk to children. The pilot project will be a collaborative effort with the community, local agencies and businesses, and will include an evaluation of mobile and industrial sources of air pollution and the development of strategies to reduce air pollution at the community level. It is our intent to identify applications and strategies in this pilot project that can be transferable to other communities throughout the State.
- IV. Project Start Date:** Immediately.
- V. Project End Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2006
- VI. Goal & Objectives:**
- a. Goal:** To better understand and reduce environmental health risk from air pollution at the community level with a special focus on children.
  - b. Objectives:**
    - Improve understanding of sources of air pollution in communities where children live and play
    - Develop new emission reduction and pollution prevention strategies that have community level benefits

- Assess impacts of port, rail, and trucking activity on local communities
- Demonstrate enforcement approaches for smoking trucks and locomotives
- Involve the community and local agencies throughout the process

## **VII. Activities – Planning, Implementation, Evaluation, & Deliverables**

### **Planning**

**Site Selection:** Southern California is a diverse area that faces significant air pollution challenges and contains a wide variety of air pollution sources. For the pilot project, some of the key selection criteria were multiple sources of diesel emissions impacting the community, as well as a concentration of industrial and commercial air pollution sources. In addition, it is important to have strong community support.

The southern California communities of Commerce, Mira Loma, and Wilmington are proposed for this project based on comments we received during two community meetings held in late 2004. Each of these communities has examples of multiple sources of air pollution in close proximity to homes and schools. Wilmington is home to multiple oil refineries and is situated near the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. These areas contain large sources of diesel and fugitive emissions from bulk transport and cargo handling activities. The focus in Wilmington will be on the environmental impact of goods movement and port-related activities. The city of Commerce is home to a wide variety of industrial facilities, numerous warehouses, a major rail yard, and a high volume of trucking and rail activity. Proposed project elements for Commerce include pilot pollution prevention training for auto body shops and chrome platers, evaluation of the rail yard, and smoke inspections for trucks and locomotives. The community of Mira Loma is located in Riverside County and is near major freeways, contains large distribution centers, and is subject to a high volume of trucking and rail activity. In Mira Loma, proposed pilot projects will focus on assessing distribution centers and smoke inspections for trucks and locomotives. A common aspect of all of these communities is goods movement.

- **Reduction of Risk to Children's Health:** Children can sometimes be more at risk than adults from the harmful health effects of air pollution. The ARB has made a major commitment to study the impact of air pollution on children's health, including special studies on air pollution and childhood diseases such as asthma.

A major concern in communities is diesel exhaust particulate from mobile sources. Diesel exhaust particulate is responsible for 70% of the known cancer risk from toxic air pollutants as well as contributing to other respiratory diseases. ARB's diesel risk reduction program is reducing risks statewide. This project supplements those efforts by reducing diesel impacts at a community level. Finding new ways to reduce diesel exhaust particulate in communities will reduce an important contributor to children's air pollution exposure.

- **Cal/EPA Cross-Media Implication:** ARB is working with DTSC on a pollution prevention project for auto body shops in the community of Commerce. We will also be working with the other BDOs to identify cross media opportunities as we work in the communities.
- **Partnerships:** ARB will partner with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, other Cal/EPA agencies, other local agencies, and community groups to complete these projects. We have established contacts within the three communities and are working with them to identify other stakeholders.

### **Implementation**

- **Methodology & Performance Indicators:**
  - ARB staff, in conjunction with local agencies and businesses, will use activity and emissions data to characterize the localized impacts of a rail yard and large distribution centers.
  - The goal of the pilot pollution prevention program is to identify the auto body shops and chrome plating shops in the community and conduct outreach and education on pollution prevention.
  - The Governor's Leadership Task Force on Goods Movement and Ports will establish milestones and tasks related to the Port assessment and development of control strategies.
  - ARB's diesel truck and rail enforcement pilot projects will evaluate compliance with diesel emission regulations in the selected communities to reduce excessive in-use emissions. Compliance results will be reported and shared with the communities.
  - During the implementation of the project, ARB will bring other agencies into the process as necessary and appropriate.
  - There will be an overall report on project elements at the completion of this project.
- **Public Participation:** Community leaders will be actively sought to participate in this process. Elected and appointed officials as well as residents and community activists will be contacted. ARB has begun outreach and will continue to solicit input and support in each community throughout the process. Upon approval of this proposal, ARB staff will establish local advisory groups to help coordinate the pilot projects.

▪ **Project Work Plan & Timeline:**

	Activity	Start Date	End Date
<b>Phase 1</b>	1. Identify pilot project location(s)	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2005	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2005
	2. Define project parameters	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2004	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2005
<b>Phase 2</b>	1. Establish Local Advisory Groups (LAGs)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2005	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2005
	2. Collect Project Data	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2005	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2006
	3. Evaluate Data & Write Report	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2006	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2006
<b>Phase 3</b>	1. Develop Children's Environmental Risk Reduction Plan (ChERRP)	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2005	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2005
<b>Phase 4</b>	1. Implement ChERRP	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2005	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2006
<b>Phase 5</b>	1. Evaluate ChERRP	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2006	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2006
	2. Explore implementation options of project	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2006	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2006

**Evaluation & Deliverables**

- **Deliverables:** A report on the results and status of our projects will be available at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2006. The report will also contain recommendations on how these pilot projects could be applied to other areas of the state.
- **Considerations, Anticipated Challenges/Constraints:** Anticipated challenges/constraints include the accelerated timeframe of this process and resource availability.

**VIII. For More Information:**

**Comments, Questions, or Concerns regarding this Pilot?**

Please direct comments, questions, or concerns to:

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